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SHRIEKING PART ONE the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



"LIFETHEFT" AND
"PURSUIT" WERE JUST
THE BEGINNING OF
SPIDER-MAN'S
LIVING NIGHTMARE --

-- AND SHRIEK AND
CARRION ARE ALL
TOO HAPPY TO HIT HIM
WHILE HE'S DOWN!

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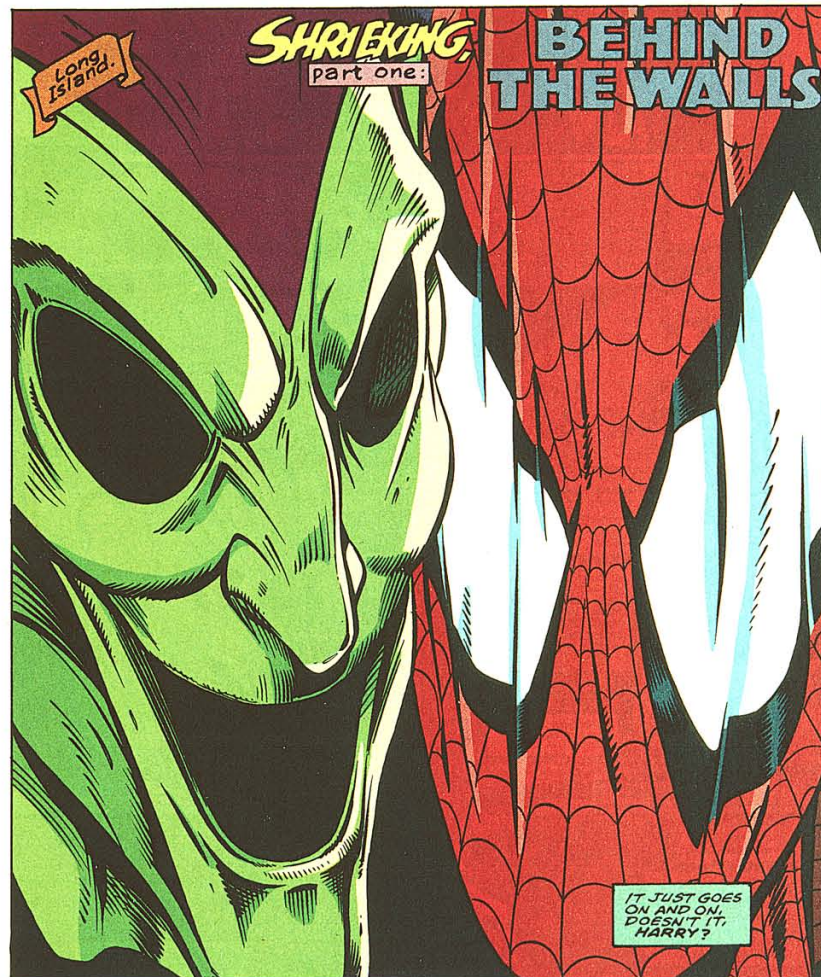
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COMICS**

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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**®



J.M. DeMATTEIS* MARK BAGLEY* RANDY EMBERLIN* JOE ROSEN* BOB SHAREN* DANNY FINGEROTH* TOM DeFALCO
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

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IT'S ALMOST AS IF SPIDER-MAN AND THE GREEN GOBLIN EXIST INDEPENDENT OF PETER PARKER AND HARRY OSBORN...



...AND NOTHING -- NOT EVEN THE GRIVE -- CAN STOP THEIR DIRTY LITTLE WAR.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, HARRY. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PUT THE CHAMELEON UP TO IT!

ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION I FOUND IN SMERDYAKOV'S COMPUTER FILES, YOU CONTACTED HIM MONTHS BEFORE YOU DIED, PUT THE WHOLE IDEA OF "RESURRECTING" RICHARD AND MARY PARKER INTO HIS HEAD.



...AND CHOSE TO HATE ME INSTEAD...

...BLAMING YOUR BEST FRIEND FOR ALL THE INSANITY, ALL THE DEATH.

YOU WANTED TO HURT ME THE WAY YOU'D BEEN HURT. WELL, GUESS WHAT, OLD BUDDY?



AND WHY?

BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T DEAL WITH THE REALITY OF WHAT A MONSTER YOUR FATHER WAS -- COULDN'T FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO HATE HIM...

*SEE LAST ISSUE FOR HOW IT ALL PLAYED OUT. -- GIMMY

YOU SUCCEEDED.

I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY, NORMAN.

HARRY AND I MADE PEACE WITH EACH OTHER BEFORE HE DIED. BEFORE YOUR STRENGTH-ENHANCING FORMULA KILLED HIM.



BUT THE OSBORN LEGACY LIVES ON. THE HATE AND MADNESS SURVIVE YOU BOTH.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'VE COME HERE TO YOUR FAMILY MANSION -- WHERE THE GOBLIN AND I HAD ONE OF OUR LAST BATTLES, TO CONGRATULATE YOU.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, YOU'VE WON. YOU DESTROYED HARRY.





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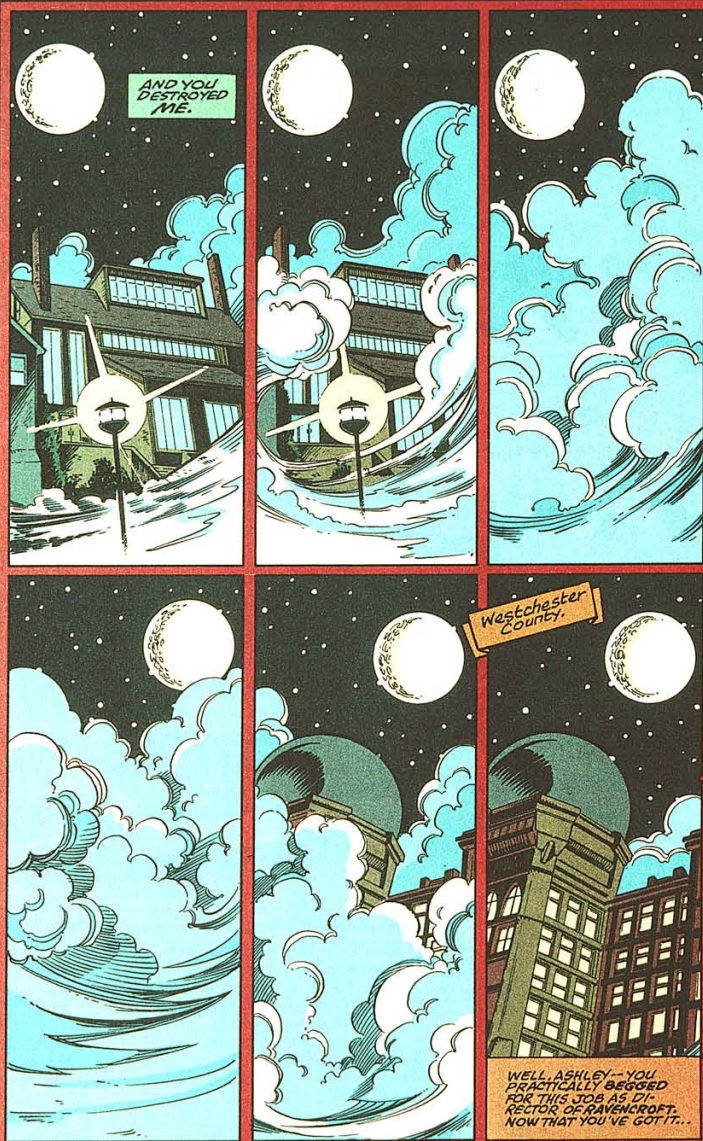
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AND YOU DESTROYED ME.

Westchester County.

WELL, ASHLEY-- YOU PRACTICALLY BEGGED FOR THIS JOB AS DIRECTOR OF RAINBOWCRAFT. NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT IT...

...I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY.

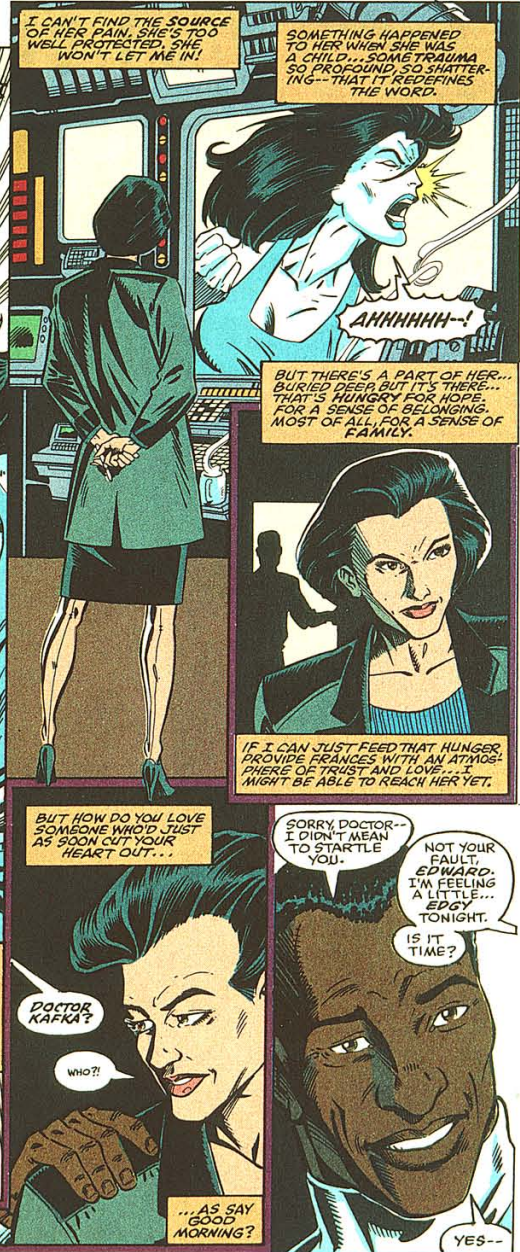


AAAAAAAAHHH

LOOK AT HER: FRANCES LOUISE BARRISON-- KNOWN MORE COMMONLY AS SHRIEK. EVEN IF THEY FILLED EVERY WING OF THIS FACILITY WITH MENTALLY-IMBALANCED SUPER-CRIMINALS...

... SHE'D STILL BE MY MOST PERPLEXING CASE.

HOW MANY WEEKS OF THERAPY HAVE I DONE WITH HER? AND FOR EACH LAYER OF EMOTIONAL PAIN I PEEL BACK... I FIND FIVE MORE.



I CAN'T FIND THE SOURCE OF HER PAIN, SHE'S TOO WELL PROTECTED, SHE WON'T LET ME IN!

SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HER WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD... SOME TRAUMA SO DEEP, SO SHATTERING-- THAT IT REDEFINES THE WORD.

BUT THERE'S A PART OF HER... BURIED DEEP BUT IT'S THERE... THAT'S HUNGRY FOR HOPE. FOR A SENSE OF BELONGING. MOST OF ALL, FOR A SENSE OF FAMILY.

IF I CAN JUST FEED THAT HUNGER, PROVIDE FRANCES WITH AN ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST AND LOVE... I MIGHT BE ABLE TO REACH HER YET.

BUT HOW DO YOU LOVE SOMEONE WHO'D JUST AS SOON CUT YOUR HEART OUT...

SORRY, DOCTOR-- I DIDN'T MEAN TO STAGGER YOU.

NOT YOUR FAULT, EDWARD. I'M FEELING A LITTLE... EDGY TONIGHT. IS IT TIME?

DOCTOR KAFKA?

WHO?

...AS SAY GOOD MORNING?

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"AND THEN
HE COMES--"

"--AND I PRAY,
WITH ALL MY
HEART AND SOUL--"

"-- THAT HE KILLS ME,
TOO. I'D BE HAPPY,
DOCTOR... REALLY.
I WOULD... IF HE'D KILL
ME. I DESERVE TO DIE."

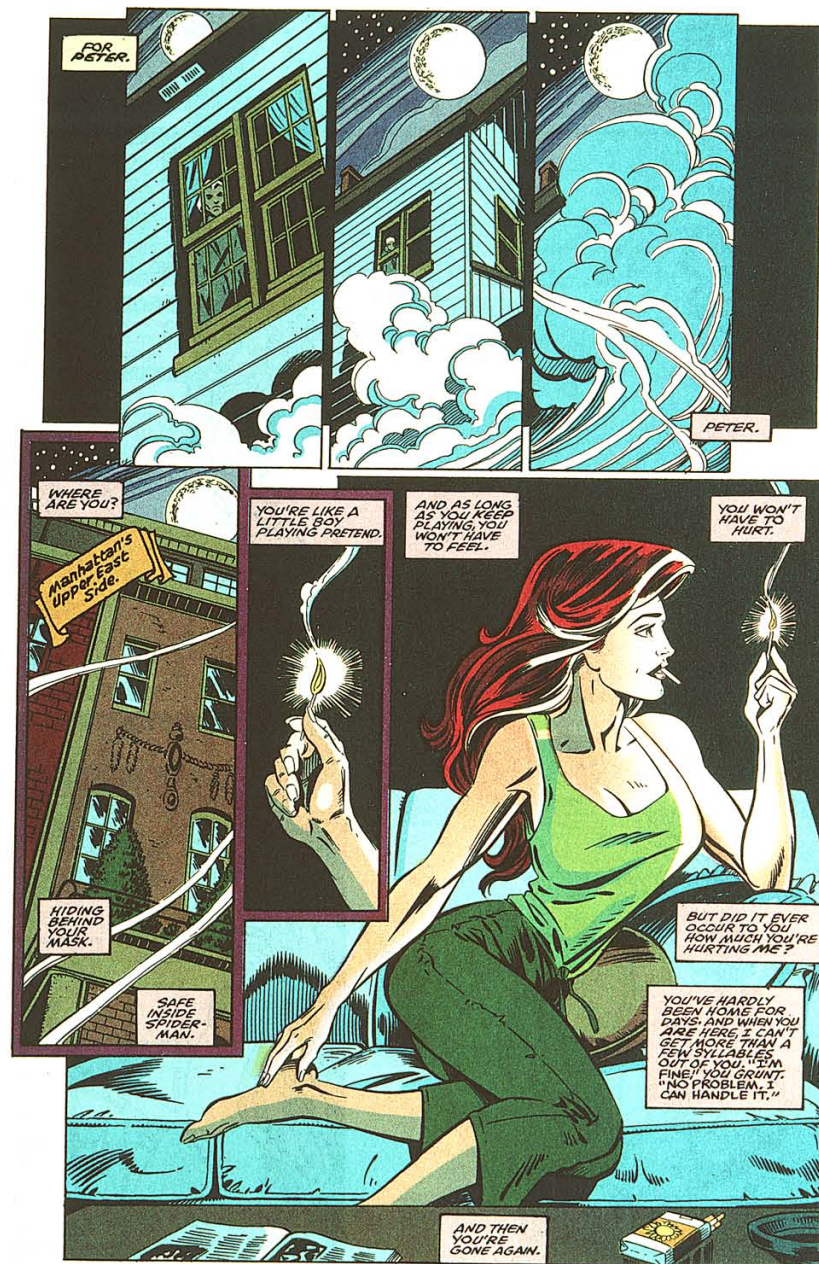
"BUT... BUT HE
DOESN'T KILL
ME. THAT'S NOT
WHAT HE WANTS."

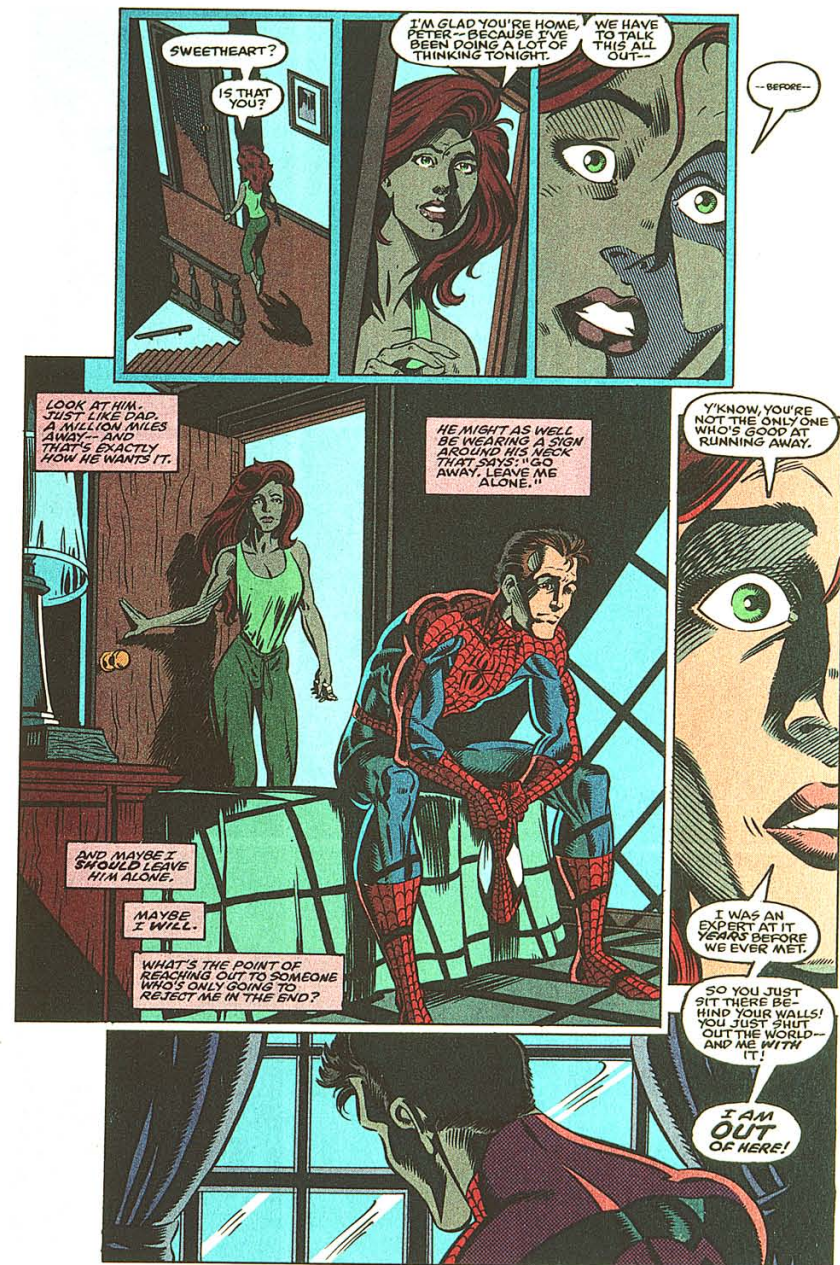
"WHAT HE
WANTS--"

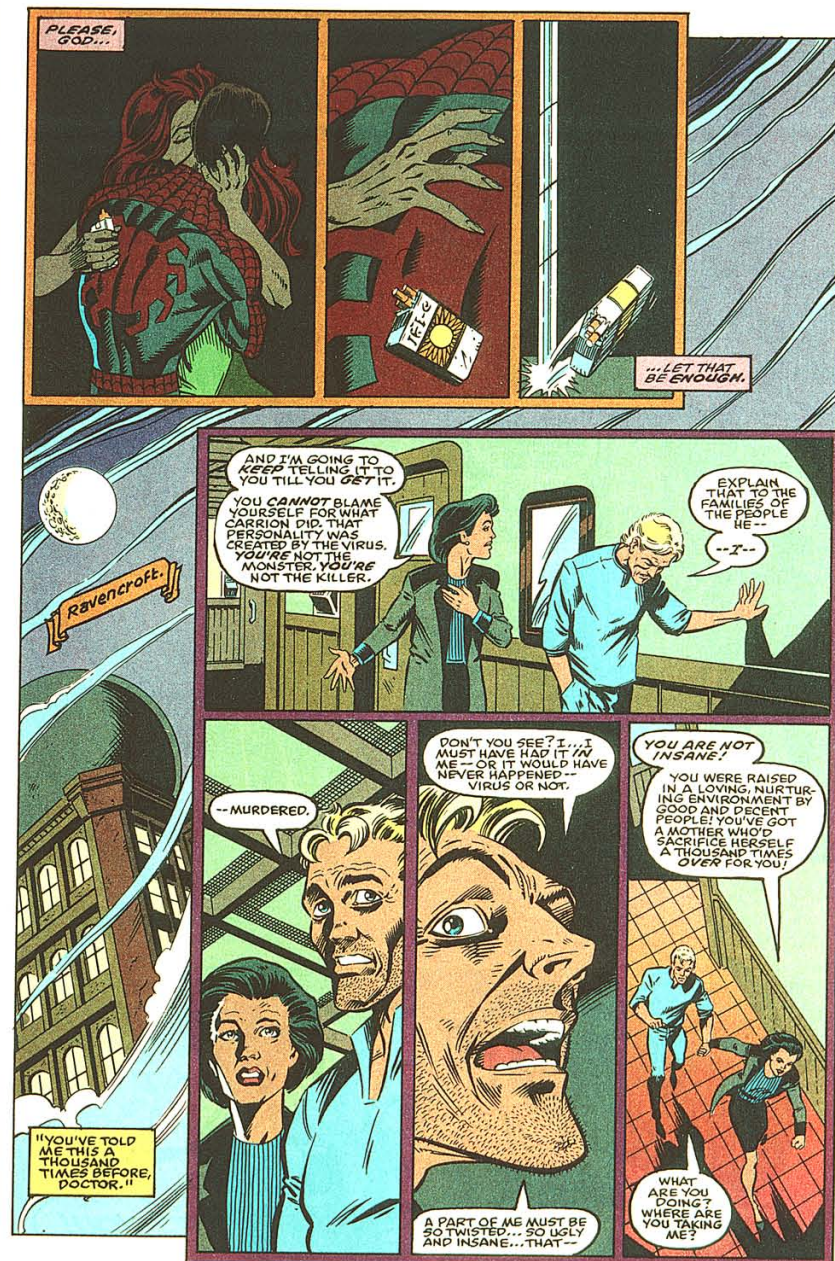
"-- IS FOR ME
TO TAKE HIM
BACK."

Forest Hills.

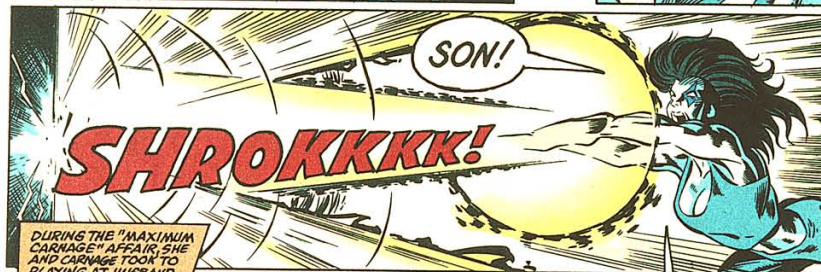
PETER--!









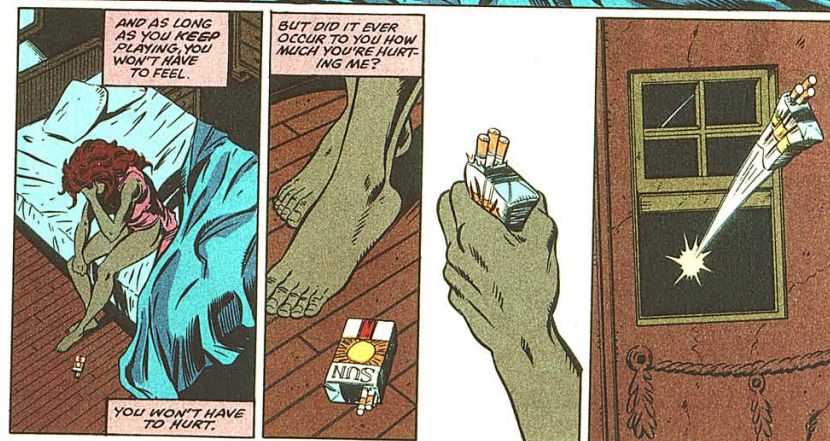
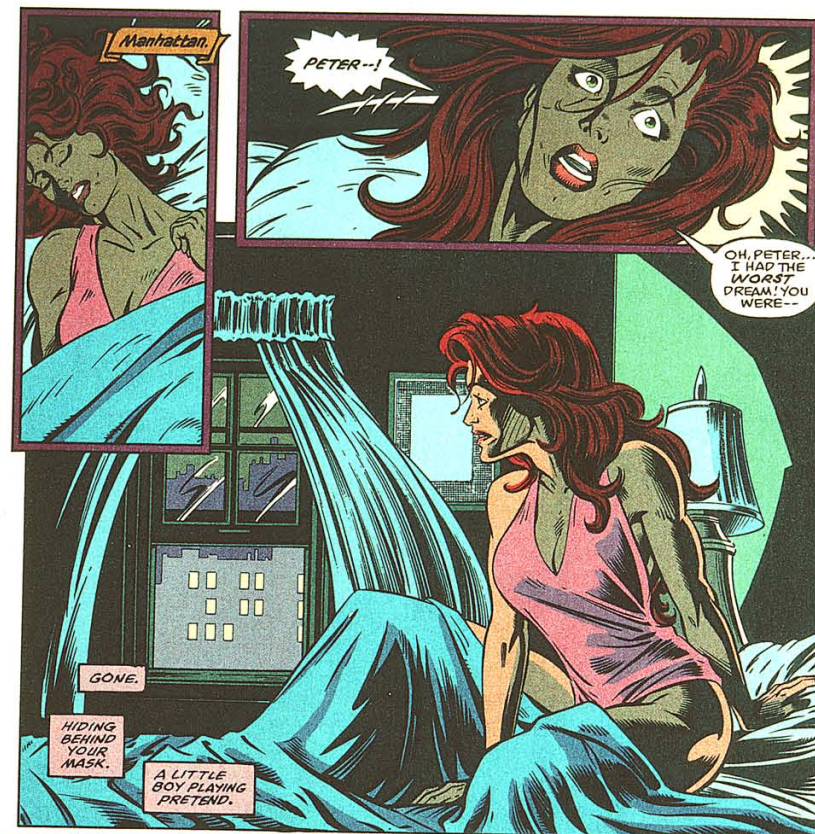
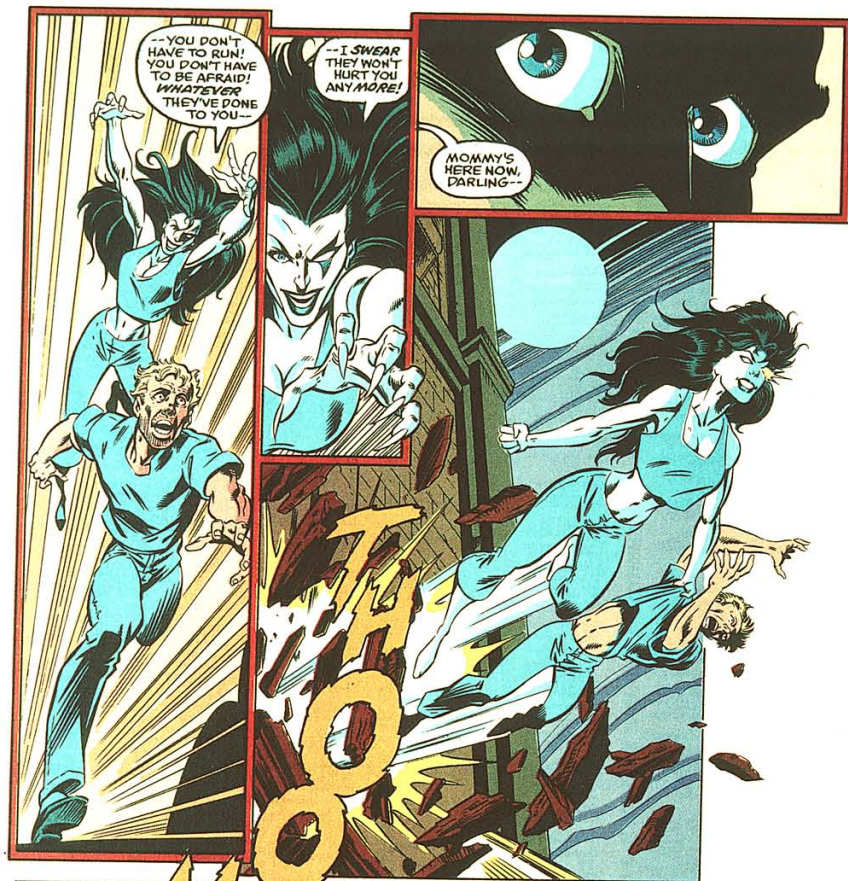


DURING THE "MAXIMUM CARNAGE" AFFAIR, SHE AND CARRION TOOK TO PLAYING AT HUSBAND AND WIFE... NO DOUBT CREATING A MIRROR OF THE DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY FRANCES GREW UP IN... AND CARRION PLAYED THE PART OF THEIR DUTIFUL CHILD.

I NEVER WOULD HAVE BROUGHT MALCOLM HERE IF I THOUGHT FRANCES WOULD RECOGNIZE HIM... CONNECT HIM TO CARRION!



CTIONS



BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD

AND NOW, A PREPARED STATEMENT FROM BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD TO CARD LOVERS EVERYWHERE:



UHHH. HUH
HUH HUH HUH HUH.
BUY THESE CARDS,
OR SOMETHING.



BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD

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YEAH.
HEH HEH M HEH
HEH HEH HEH HEH.



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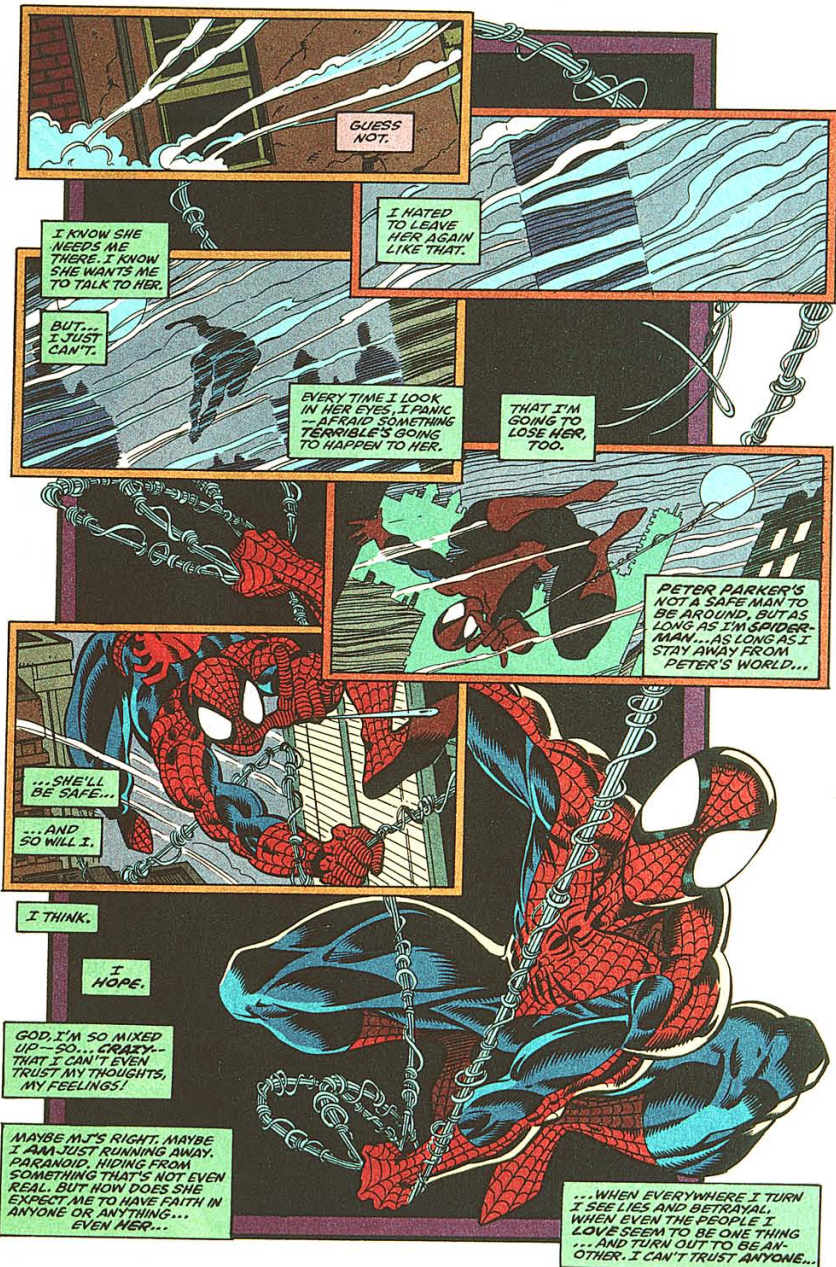
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GUESS
NOT.

I HATED
TO LEAVE
HER AGAIN
LIKE THAT.

I KNOW SHE
NEEDS ME
THERE. I KNOW
SHE WANTS ME
TO TALK TO HER.

BUT...
I JUST
CAN'T.

EVERY TIME I LOOK
IN HER EYES, I PANIC
-- AFRAID SOMETHING
TERRIBLE'S GOING
TO HAPPEN TO HER.

THAT I'M
GOING TO
LOSE HER,
TOO.

PETER PARKER'S
NOT A SAFE MAN TO
BE AROUND, BUT AS
LONG AS I'M SPIDER-
MAN... AS LONG AS I
STAY AWAY FROM
PETER'S WORLD...

...SHE'LL
BE SAFE...
...AND
SO WILL I.

I THINK.

I
HOPE.

GOD, I'M SO MIXED
UP--SO... CRAZY--
THAT I CAN'T EVEN
TRUST MY THOUGHTS,
MY FEELINGS!

MAYBE M.J.'S RIGHT. MAYBE
I AM JUST RUNNING AWAY.
PARANOID. HIDING FROM
SOMETHING THAT'S NOT EVEN
REAL. BUT NOW DOES SHE
EXPECT ME TO HAVE FAITH IN
ANYONE OR ANYTHING...
EVEN HER...

...WHEN EVERYWHERE I TURN
I SEE LIES AND BETRAYAL.
WHEN EVEN THE PEOPLE I
LOVE SEEM TO BE ONE THING
...AND TURN OUT TO BE AN-
OTHER. I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE...



THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
MARK BERNARDO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Hey, gang! We're still trying to catch up on the mail, so for this letters page, we'll be running your comments on Issue #s 384 and 385! We're really pleased with the enthusiasm and excitement that you all have expressed in your letters for what we've been doing, and all we can say is: You ain't seen nothing yet!

Dear Web-Debs,

I've never written before, but after reading "Trial By Jury," I felt I had to! Those flashbacks of Carnage and Venom in issue #384 were terrific! Thank you a million times for stopping Mary Jane's smoking. I was getting stressed out over it.

Do you have to kill the Vulture? He's my favorite villain, and I will hate to see him go.

Marc Bartsch
(Address withheld by request)

Stress out no further, Marc! MJ has indeed given up smoking, after seeing the possible end result of such a habit. As for the Vulture, you've undoubtedly witnessed the startling transformation he underwent in Issue #s 386-388!

Dear Spider-Maniacs,

Wow! That's what I said after I read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #384. I had no idea how cool it would be, and when it showed me how Venom and Carnage were created, it immediately became my favorite Spider-Man comic!

David Michelinie and Mark Bagley were excellent as usual, and Bob Sharen did a great coloring job! I'm looking forward to the last chapter of "Trial By Jury," and I bet it will be just as cool.

Luc Dumais
RR #2
Amprior, Ontario
Canada K7S 3G8

Dear Mr. Fingeroth,

I have been an avid Spider-Man reader since the sixties (I'm well into my thirties by now and still enjoy the character). I've just finished reading ASM #384, and am on tenterhooks for the next issue.

However, there is something I'd like to point out. I am a clinical child psychologist who has been working in a unit for emotionally disturbed children for a good number of years now. Susie's mother in ASM #384 stated that Susie was a "vegetable" -- a term usually reserved by lay people for brain-damaged or mentally handicapped people. Presumably Susie's mother (and not the writer, David Michelinie) has got this wrong! Susie's silence is a result of emotional trauma, not brain damage or mental retardation. This has enormous implications for prognosis -- I'm not nit-picking on words here. Elective mutism stemming from

emotional trauma has a far, far greater chance for positive recovery than if mutism had come from brain damage or mental handicap. I hope Spider-Man will get a chance to prove Susie's mother wrong, by helping Susie to "work through" her trauma. But somehow, he's got to hold the Jury at bay first!

Nick Wood
63 Bathurst Road
Kenilworth 7700
Cape Town
South Africa

There's no indication that Susie's mother was anything other than a lay person, Nick, so you're correct in presuming that she (and not David Michelinie) was unfamiliar with the technical term for her daughter's condition. Hope you liked the conclusion to the storyline.

Dear Marvel,

Upon reading the last few pages of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #385, I came close to crying. In fact, I have been upset with this since... well, since a few issues after the first Carnage storyline. I'll tell you why.

A few years ago, when I was about twelve years old, I learned that my grandfather had come down with some illness. It wasn't for a month that my parents told me it was lung cancer, caused by years of smoking.

For over half a year, I watched him. His symptoms were horrible, not unlike the ones you portrayed Nick Katzenberg going through. Near the end, he could barely even talk. When he finally passed away, we were all relieved it had ended, but were nonetheless depressed. Indeed, it was some time before anyone in the family would have the spirit to tell a joke again.

But my grandfather's death did do one bit of good. It made me vow never, never to touch a cigarette! As I have long known, and as you portrayed, those things are deadly! If I had any say, I'd have them banned. And I am so glad Mary Jane learned this before suffering a similar fate.

Hopefully, a lot of people will read your magazine and learn that smoking is just not worth the risks. In the real world, people don't have mutant healing systems to deal with tobacco, there are no magical cures, and you can't be brought back to life by cosmic intervention.

So I thank you, each and every one of you, for addressing this topic. And I'm sure my entire family will, too. I praise you all.

Brian Corvello
42 Winston Drive
Washington, CT 06794

We hope we don't sound too self-congratulatory when we say that we've received quite a bit of positive feedback on the conclusion of this storyline. A lot

of people out there have experienced situations painfully similar to that of your family's, Brian, and we hoped that our readers would appreciate our efforts to address this subject in a realistic, dramatic, and powerful way. Thank you for your letter, and your encouragement.

NEXT ISSUE: The stage is set! Now -- it's Shriek and Carnage vs. Spidey! But in Spidey's post-Lifethet, post-Pursuit mode, wait'll you see how he handles them! Plus: the most shocking ending of all! (And if you're not following WEB, SPECTACULAR, SPIDER-MAN and UNLIMITED, as well as this mag, you'll be missing out on excitement, drama... and clues leading up to what will be the comics event of 1994! Don't say you weren't warned!)



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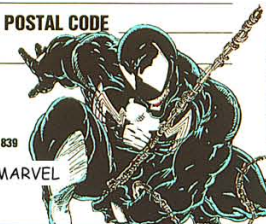
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